21st Century Education Symposium

Research, Policy and Practice...

Keynote Speaker: Kristen Wright

Special Education Division Director
California Department of Education (CDE)

Kristin Wright has spent more than a decade working in education with a focus on special education. Since December 2014, she has worked for the California State Board of Education as an Education Policy Consultant and liaison between the State Board and the CDE on a variety of subjects, including special education, child nutrition, foster and homeless youth, and computer science.

In 2013 and 2014, she worked as an Education Programs Consultant within CDE's Special Education Division, serving as a liaison to the Advisory Commission on Special Education (ACSE) and consulting on program and policy matters related to California's Common Core State Standards and accessibility for students with disabilities. She served as a State Senate appointee to the ACSE from 2006 to 2013 and was chair of the advisory commission from 2009 to 2013.

Kristin is a wealth of professional and personal experience. She is a former special education student teacher, and a mother of a child with disabilities.

"California's students with disabilities and their families will find they have an advocate and an ally in Kristin." Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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